

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 HA-05 IO-13 /076 W
-----090995 021822Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5885

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON VIOLENCE

REF:(A) MANAGUA 922; (B) MANAGUA 964, (C) MANAGUA 962

1. IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AT THE PRESENT TIME TO OBTAIN RELIABLE INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN RURAL CITIES. THERE ARE NUMEROUS ALARMING REPORTS FOR EXAMPLE OF EXTERMINATION OF RESIDENTS OF MONIMBO DISTRICT IN MASAYA. ONE SECON-HAND REPORT FROM AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY SOURCE INDICATES ABOUT THIRTY BODIES HAVING BEEN SEEN AT THE MASAYA CUARTEL. THESE BODIES WERE PRESUMED TO BE CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF MONIMBO VIOLENCE. MARCH 1 LA PRENSALISTS NUMBER OD DEAD IN MONIMBO AS 21. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GON THROUGH NOVEDADES, EMPHASIZES THE DEATHS OF TWO MEN REPORTEDLY TORTURED, EXECUTED AND BURIED BY MONIMBO RESIDENTS AS SPIES OF THE GN. THE GN ALSO REPORTS SEVEN GN INJURED.

2. THE NICARAGUAN RED CROSS IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED BY THE RESIDENTS TO BE COLLABORATORS OF THE GON FOLLOWING THE GN'S STOPPING AN
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AMBULANCE AND INTERROGATING THE PATIENT (REF A) AND BN TROOPS HAVING TEMPORARILY ENTERED THE RED CROSS CENTER IN MONIMBO. THE CITY IS APPARENTLY UNDER GN CONTROL AND THERE HAS BEEN NO FIRING REPORTED BY MASAYA RESIDENTS SINCE 5 P.M. ON FEB 28. HOWEVER, THE CITY BEARS THE SCARS OF BULLET IMPACTS IN HOUSES THROUGHOUT LARGE AREAS AND THE RUINS OF HOUSES BURNED BY DEMONSTRATORS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLEGATIONS OF BN RAZING OF INDIAN DWELLINGS THERE.

3. THERE ARE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF CIVILIANS INCLUDING CHILDREN BEING WOUNDED OR KILLED AS A RESULT OF THE CONFLICT, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE FOR SOME TIME THAT AN ACCURATE READING CAN BE OBTAINED. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A STANDOFF WITH THE GN DEMANDING ARMS BE SURRENDERED AND BREAKING INTO HOUSES TO SEARCH FOR WEAPONS, AND RESIDENT DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GN. THE ONLY POSSIBLE MODERATOR IN THIS SITUATION APPEARS TO BE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH STILL HAS INFLUENCE WITH THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION. ARCHBISHOP OBANDO Y BRAVO VISITED THE AREA ON FEB 28 BUT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.

4. REPORTS OF AN UPRISING IN LEON (REFB) WERE PREMATURE BUT ANOTHER MONIMBO SITUATION APPEARS TO BE BREWING. THE PERSONS WHO TOOK CONTROL OF THE AIRPORT AND THE NUMEROUS PERSONS REPORTED SEEN WITH ARMS APPARENTLY WITHDREW INTO THE SUBTIAVA DISTRICT OF LEON NEAR THE AIRPORT WHICH IS LARGELY A COMMUNITY OF INDIANS. THESE INDIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN ARMED BY UNAN STUDENTS. THEY BEGAN ERECTING BARRICADES. THERE HAVE AS YET BEEN NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE SIMILAR TO MONIMBO BUT THAT POTENTIAL APPEARS TO EXIST.

5. THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAN) IN MANAGUA DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN FOR TWO DAYS AS A RESULT OF THE THREE STUDENT DEATHS (REF C). THE GN REPORT ON THAT OCCURRENCE STATES THAT A POLICE PATROL JEEP WAS SHOT AT AND STONED BY STUDENTS, THAT ONE GN WAS INJURED BY A HEAVY ROCK, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THAT THEY FIRED BACK IN SELF-DEFENSE. THE UNAN AUTHORITIES DENY THAT ANY STUDENTS HAD WEAPONS, BUT REPORTS FROM EMB PERSONNEL RESIDENT NEAR THE CAMPUS STATE THAT IN RECENT DAYS THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN FIRING FROM THE CAMPUS. EMBOFF HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM TWO STUDENTS WHO WERE EYEWITNESSES THAT GN FIRED ON APPARENTLY UNARMED STUDENTS FEB 27, ONE INSTANCE INVOLVING UNAN STUDENTS ON CAMPUS AND ONE INVOLVING UNAN STUDENTS MARCHING OFF CAMPUS. RELIABLE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF PRES. SOMOZA HAS SEVERELY CHIDED GN COMMANDER WHO SENT TROOPS ON CAMPUS.

6. EMB RECEIVED REPORTS OF A VERY BRIEF SHOOTING INCIDENT IN MANAGUA ON MARCH 1, IN THE CENTER OF TOWN WHEN POLICE PERSONNEL FIRED INTO THE AIR TO DISPERSE A DEMONSTRATION. MARCH 1 IS JOURNALISTS DAY AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A MARCH TO THE SITE IN THE OLD CITY CENTER WHERE CHAMORRO WAS ASSASSINATED. IT IS ALSO THE DAY FOR BURIAL OF TWO OF THE DEAD UNAN STUDENTS. UDEL AND ITS RELATED LABOR CONFEDERATIONS CALLED FOR A ONE-DAY WORKSTOPPAGE WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED IMPACT. HOWEVER, THE POTENTIAL REMAINS FOR FURTHER SERIOUS DISTURBANCES. RUBENSTEIN

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